Class of 2013 Student Testimonials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Michael</th>
<th>Major: Microbiology</th>
<th>Minor: Chemistry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For me, UVM taught me a lot more than how to culture bacteria or run gels. By joining this major, you enter into a community of peers and mentors who all want to see you succeed. The MMG program gave me a strong foundation in the sciences, giving me options to pursue many different options post-grad. Most of the professors teaching MMG courses also serve as academic advisors for the major, leading to solid relationships that I will value throughout my career. At no point did I feel unable to ask for help if I needed it.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UVM also provides exciting opportunities for undergraduate research in many different fields. The campus is adjacent to a Level I trauma center, where students are able to participate in research studies, like those in the emergency department. MMG classes prepare you to be a scientist, giving hands on experience with practical techniques used in many of the labs on campus. The MMG program provides a unique, challenging experience to any student interested in the sciences; I would recommend it without hesitation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tom
*Honors College Scholar*
Major: Molecular Genetics
Minor: Microbiology

I've had a wonderful time during my stay here with the MMG department. My experience in UVM MMG started as a high school student looking for a college program. I sent an e-mail inquiring about the department and received quick response, thanking me for my interest and describing the program of study. That's when I knew, I would be attending UVM the next year. The person who answered my email? My future advisor.

As a student, my experience has continued to be excellent. The courses and their respective instructors are top notch. The labs provide genuine, hands on experience in experimentation that actually feels useful and prepares the student for time spent in a research laboratory.

Rachael
Major: Microbiology

I am a non-traditional student and the MMG program was very helpful in designing a curriculum that suited my educational needs. The advising I received was out of this world and the MMG faculty is comprised of a community of very talented and motivated individuals. You can see the positive attitude of the faculty trickle down to their students. I have greatly enjoyed my time in the MMG program and would recommend it to anyone looking to receive an education that truly prepares them for their future as an employee or as a candidate for higher education.
Alysha
Double major:
Microbiology &
Molecular Genetics

When I applied to UVM, I choose MMG as my major on a whim -- I remembered loving genetics in high school and it was different than any major I had seen at the other schools I applied to. It turned out to be the best decision I ever made. Within my first semester I was getting hands on experience in lab and the advising offered through MMG allowed me to create my own unique experience at UVM, something that seemed really different than the other majors here. Being part of a smaller department allowed me to really get to know both the other students in my major as well as the professors in the department on a personal level. I have enjoyed all of the classes offered as they were interesting, engaging and most importantly hands on. I truly feel prepared for a future career in either a microbiology or molecular genetics type field.

Midori
Honors College Scholar
Major: Microbiology
Minor: Molecular Genetics

I couldn’t have asked for a better experience at UVM. My time here has been incredible and I’ve had so many memorable moments, and a lot of it can be contributed to the MMG program. I made amazing friends who were also in the program and learned so much in the past 4 years. I know my experience is so much different from others who were in larger science programs who didn’t get to know other students in their classes because it was too large. Being in a small major like Microbiology, presented me with opportunities in research, teaching, as well as finding if medical career would be right for me. The faculty is the most helpful and supportive group that make themselves available for you. I wouldn’t change a thing if I had to do college all over again. Thanks MMG!
When I applied to UVM through the common application, I knew I wanted to eventually end up in a field that involved medicine or health care. I listed one of my possible majors at UVM on the common application as Molecular Genetics. When I got accepted to UVM, I got accepted into the MMG program. I did not really know why I got accepted into the program right away, but I told myself, “why not!” That was the best decision I ever made. Personally, I learn by being that annoying student to teachers who meets with them every week, constantly asks them questions, and wants them to get to know me on a personal level. Because of the small size of the program, and the sense of community it brings, I was able to do exactly that. The teachers and faculty in this program are incredible. They strive to make your college life as interesting to you and successful as possible. Not only is this program incredible, but Burlington is one of the best cities I have had the chance to explore. I am a very active person and I love being outside in any season. Burlington and areas around Burlington offer extended amounts of hiking, rock climbing, kayaking, skiing, etc. I have loved being a part of UVM’s Outing Club where I get to lead backpacking trips all around new England. I have also loved being a part of DREAM, which is a mentoring program for kids. All of my experiences here have geared me towards wanting to obtain a Masters in Public Health. The MMG program has set me up perfectly with making sure I have all the appropriate requirements, resume, and skills needed to achieve this goal. With my lab and medical knowledge background gained through the classes I have taken through MMG and my opportunity to become and EMT and work on a rescue squad, applying to graduate school and looking for a job in the public health world is that much easier.
Being a part of the MMG program has solidified my college experience. From the first day I transferred into the program I was welcomed with open arms and unbelievable support. The small class size and close-knit atmosphere of the department allowed me to become great friends with so many other students despite being a transfer student. Having professors that believe in you, know you both on an academic and personal level, and will go out of their way to ensure you succeed is invaluable. I could never thank the MMG faculty enough for all they have done for me and all the wonderful support I have gotten. During some of the toughest times of my life, it was always a member of MMG willing to go that extra mile to help me in any way possible. I have been given opportunities to be a teaching assistant, intern, participate in undergraduate research and take some of the best classes at UVM that I know I wouldn’t have been able to take advantage of if I wasn’t in MMG. The classes are always my favorite and they make me excited about learning. As a double major, I have found my home here, and I am so sad to leave it behind but thankful that the curriculum has set me up for success in my future. There is no better department and no better set of faculty than in MMG and I am so honored to call myself an alumna.
Sam
Double major: Neurobiology & Microbiology
Minor: Molecular Genetics

Just a general thank you to the MMG faculty that made my experience at UVM such a good one. I hope you all realize what an amazing job you're doing. I feel I owe a huge part of being accepted to grad school to this department, both the faculty and courses.

Ben
Major: Microbiology
Minors: Molecular Genetics, English

UVM cultivates an environment that presents opportunities for personal and professional development. On beautiful Vermont sunny days I love to hike mountains beyond mountains and in the cold winter months I enjoy snowboarding through fresh powder. Throughout my four years at UVM I have taken advantage of many experiential learning opportunities. From undergraduate research to coveted internships with the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory and the Vermont Chief Medical Examiner, I have sampled a wide array of topics that have helped narrow down my interests and passions. The faculty in MMG are emotionally invested in the success of their students and have truly helped shape my experience at UVM!
The MMG department at UVM is superior compared to other programs at this school. The small size of the department is not a deterrent; I believe it’s a major point of strength. You get to know the faculty and students in the program, which provides a sense of community, something that would otherwise be lost if someone were in a larger department with hundreds of other students. The MMG department also has strong ties to other departments, such as the biochemistry and the biology department, which allows for a lot of great collaboration. The classes may sometimes be challenging, but they are rewarding, and the material learned is all very important and invaluable. In sum, MMG is a fantastic department and major, and would benefit anyone with an interest in science.

Starting out as a biochemistry major, most of my classes were large and I never felt particularly comfortable asking questions or talking to anyone, especially the teachers. I added Molecular Genetics to my major in the beginning of my 3rd year and it was a choice I am so grateful that I made. It was the first time I felt like teachers were truly invested in my success and were there to help both academically and personally. The required courses are all directly shaped to prepare us for the real world and focused on developing essential skills that will continue to be necessary despite the final route we decide to take.
Cody
Major: Microbiology
Minor: Molecular Genetics

Everything about my MMG experience has been perfect. I transferred into the department my sophomore year and I couldn’t be happier with my decision. The curriculum for MMG majors is challenging, engaging, fun and incredibly interesting. All of the classes I took provided me with relevant experience for the future, especially helping to gear anyone towards a graduate or medical school. The entire faculty is friendly, approachable and willing to share any piece of advice they can provide to help their students excel. I am so thankful for all of the experiences this department has provided me, and it has really helped to make my undergraduate experience a positive one.

Keyan
Major: Microbiology

Before switching into MMG I was a biological sciences major, but I didn’t enjoy the courses or the large size of the program. I was very excited when I discovered the MMG department; I loved the small size, quality of advising, hands-on laboratory based classes, and ample opportunities for doing research projects or internships. I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the MMG department and would highly recommend it to anyone.
Abby
Major: Microbiology

I came to UVM in search of new challenges, true friends, and great adventures. What I found was exactly that: a school full of unique, intelligent and passionate individuals exploring new opportunities and working hard to achieve their goals. Since at UVM I have had the opportunity to be a TA, hold leadership positions in the Fraternity and Sorority community, pursue a semester long internship in Peru, and become a member of the Board of Directors of a local Burlington organization! I have loved being a part of the MMG program where the professors get to know the students and genuinely want to help students get all we can out of our time at UVM. The classes have been fascinating and the labs have provided us the experience we need to be qualified for jobs once we graduate. My advisor helped me plan for a semester abroad, had the answers to all of my many questions, and has been there as an encouraging presence throughout my college experience. Joining Fraternity and Sorority Life allowed me to meet a great group of people and be involved on campus. Serving as the Vice President of Philanthropy and Service for both my chapter and the greater sorority community enabled me to live out my passion for service while developing my leadership skills. My favorite part of UVM, however, has been the student body. The students at UVM are all so unique in where they are from, how they dress, what kind of music they like, what kind of hobbies they like, what kind of interest they have…but everyone is proud to be who they are and is accepting and supportive of others. The result is an environment where everyone can achieve their goals and be proud of who they are. I am proud to be a part of the UVM community that has allowed me to achieve my goals in college and has prepared me to continue to do so in my future!
As an MMG major you will be prepared for whatever you are interested in doing after college and will have a great time in the process. While the classes are great, what makes MMG so special is the community of faculty, staff, and students. The people involved in this program are truly amazing and have made my experience with MMG phenomenal. Thinking back to my first time walking into Dr. Johnson’s office, I never could have imagined the experience I was setting myself up for. I have learned more than I could have imagined, been able to adjust my schedule to fit in courses I really wanted to take, around a semester studying abroad, and have had a great time in the process. From the courses to the people to the research to all of the other opportunities, MMG has been the perfect place for me to be for the past 4 years and I am very grateful to have been a part of the department for my time here.
Ever since my first semester freshman year, which I spent out in Flagstaff, AZ I have been a microbiology major. When I transferred in here, however, I declared a general biology major. Up until finally transferring into the MMG department I did not care much for my classes and was very uncertain that I would want to continue in biology. The first class that I took after transferring into the department was MMG 101 and after that I was hooked. Every single MMG course that I have taken since has been fantastic and after leaving the laboratory on lab days I felt more and more certain that I had made the best decision of my life.

I attended a very small private high school in New Hampshire where I had a very close relationship with all of my teachers as well as my advisor. I did not think that it would be possible to receive the same level of attention from my professors and advisor at a much larger institution, but I was wrong. In having the same professors for multiple courses within the department, I feel that I have achieved the same close relationships that I had in high school which has been paramount to my success and enjoyment. The enthusiasm and kindness of the faculty in this department is unparalleled and makes the study of such challenging material easy. If I can make a recommendation to prospective students it would be that Clinical Micro (MMG222) and Mammalian Cell Culture (MMG203) are not to be missed!
When I applied to the University of Vermont, I had no idea what I wanted to major in. My decision to select “microbiology” from the drop-down menu of the Common App was essentially random, as I assumed I would later change it. Thank Darwin I didn’t. The MMG program at UVM has provided me with comprehensive opportunities that I wouldn’t have experienced in many other concentrations. Although the University is relatively large, MMG allows for a small school feel, with a unique sense of comradery among teachers, advisors, and students. By the beginning of sophomore year, students are thrust into isolating and identifying bacterial species, learning about the diseases they cause, and having the opportunity to explore the micro world in first-rate laboratories under exceptional tutelage. The curriculum is designed so that while there are plenty of science-intensive courses available, students have the flexibility to investigate other areas of interest and still graduate on time. MMG students are excited to be a part of a changing field and work hard to apply and share their knowledge to strengthen science at UVM and beyond. Although it was a choice made on a whim, I am proud to be an MMGer and would gladly do it again!
I was originally an Animal Science major on the pre-veterinary track. After taking my first class in the MMG department, I was hooked, and immediately I couldn’t wait to take more MMG courses. During my sophomore year, I decided to double major in both Animal Science and Microbiology. This was the best decision I made while at UVM. The MMG courses are challenging, however the support provided makes them not only possible to complete successfully, but also fun. Because MMG is a relatively a small department, the students all immediately become life-long friends, and the faculty knew us all by name within weeks. I can’t say enough about the department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics – the advising, guidance, and friends I gained will make me a better person and professional into graduate school and beyond.